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FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS PART ONE

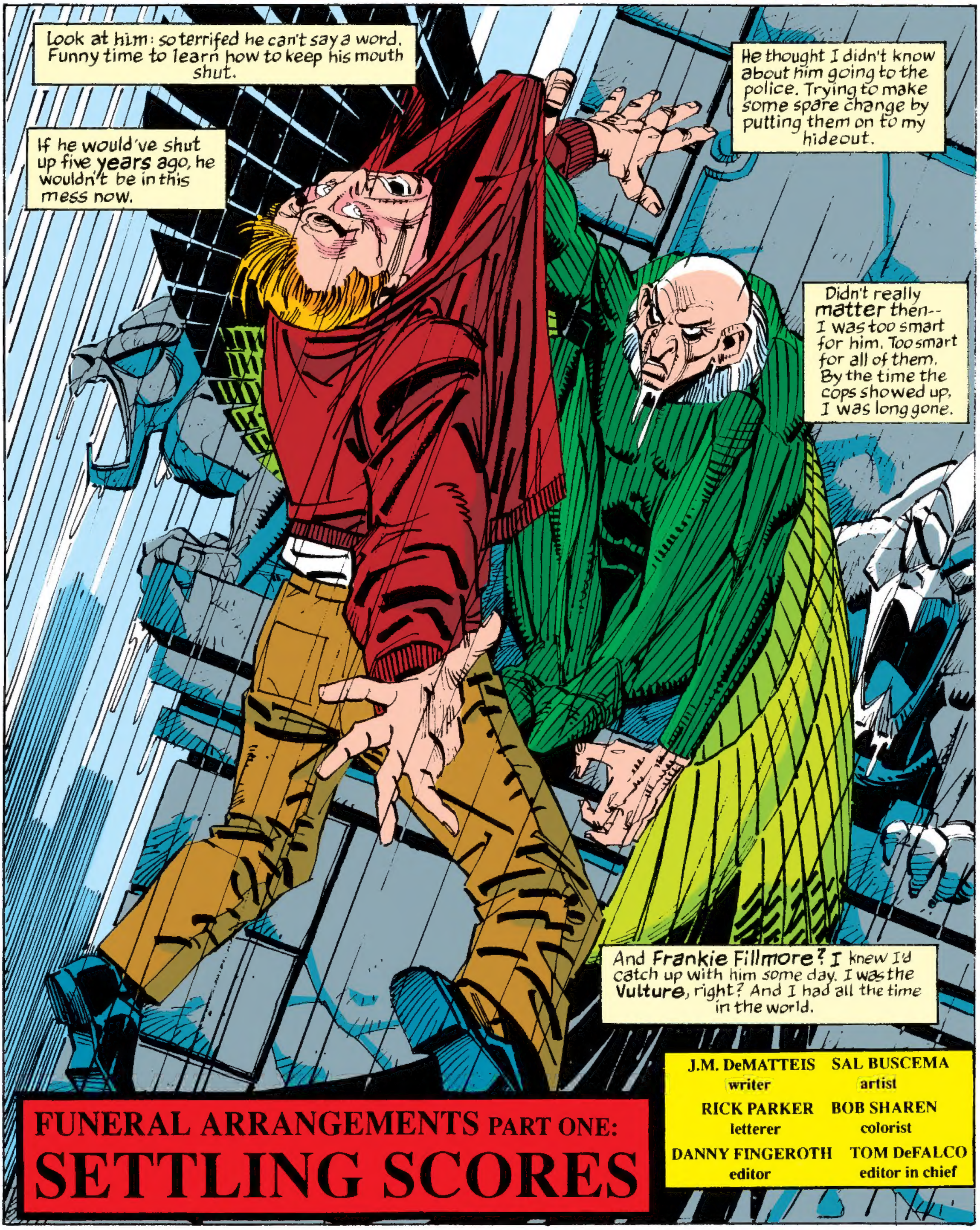
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

THE VULTURE'S™ GOING TO DIE--

--AND HE ISN'T GOING TO DO IT ALONE!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™


Look at him: so terrified he can't say a word. Funny time to learn how to keep his mouth shut.
If he would've shut up five years ago, he wouldn't be in this mess now.
He thought I didn't know about him going to the police. Trying to make some spare change by putting them on to my hideout.
Didn't really matter then-- I was too smart for him. Too smart for all of them. By the time the cops showed up, I was long gone.
And Frankie Fillmore? I knew I'd catch up with him some day. I was the Vulture, right? And I had all the time in the world.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS PART ONE: SETTLING SCORES

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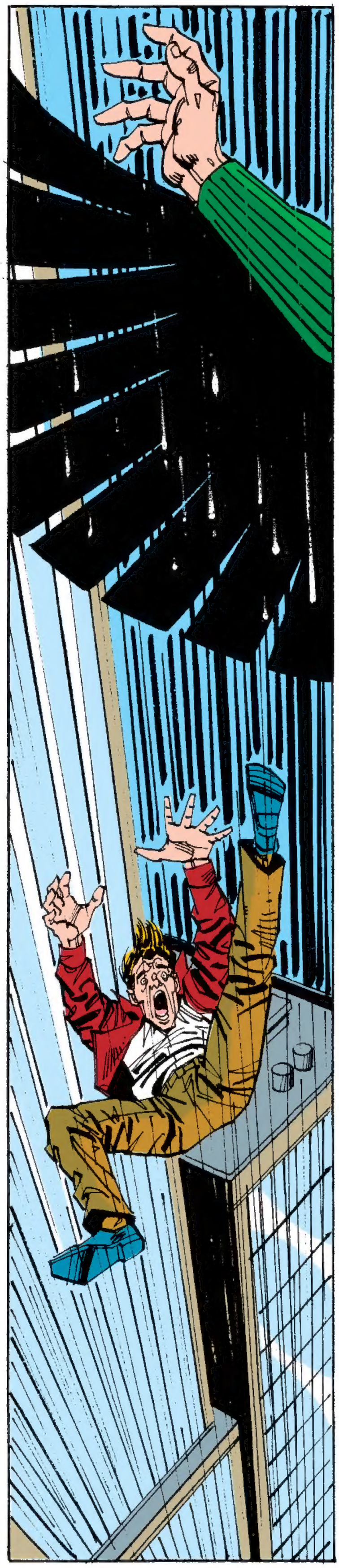

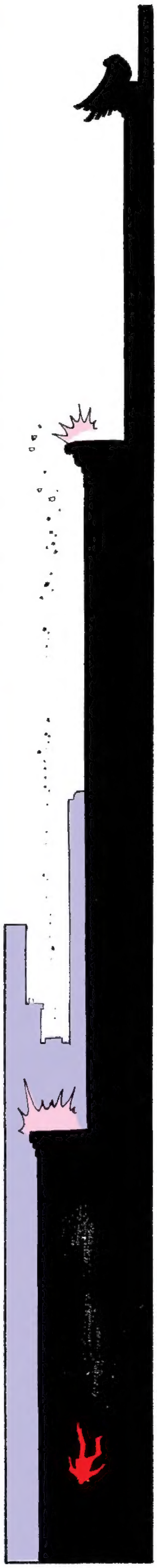

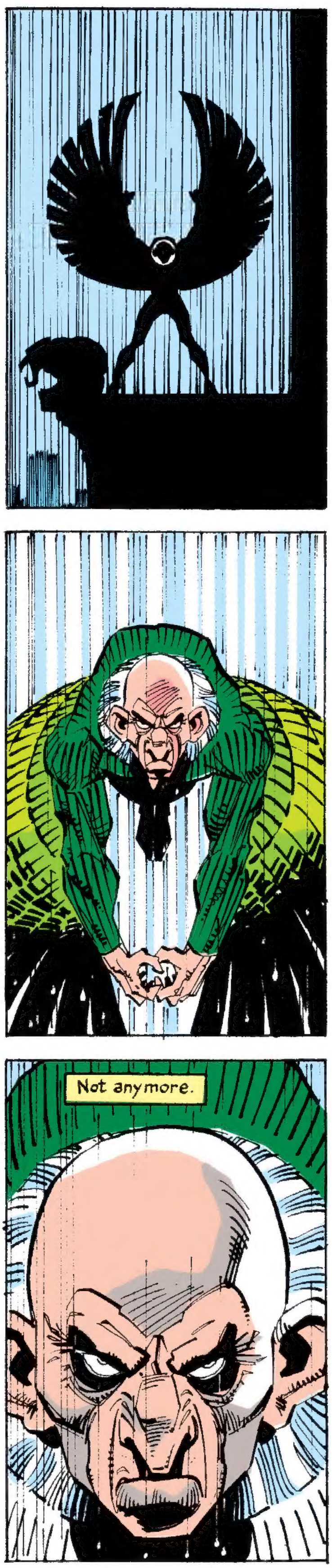

Not anymore.

What's the old saying? "So much to do, so little time"? How true.

Scores to settle, debts to pay. How many "Frankies" have I tracked down, these past few weeks? How many more are left?

But time's not gonna beat me. I'll take care of them-- all of them. Especially that miserable Spider-Man.

Oh, I'm really looking forward to crushing the life out of him.

But before I do...

... I've got some unfinished business to take care of...

...with...

...her.

No!

I need time to plan. Think it out. Yes...

...just a little more time.

OH... NO!

MY FAVORITE UMBRELLA.

I'm not ready for this! Not yet!

DON'T WORRY--

--THE CAVALRY'S JUST ARRIVED.

NOW C'MON UNDER HERE AND LET ME HELP YOU GET THOSE GROCERIES HOME--

--AUNT MAY.

MARY JANE--

--YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER.

KRA SH

KLIK

KRAKKK

ANOTHER DEAD END.

I'VE BEEN ALL OVER NEW YORK-- HIT EVERY ONE OF HIS OLD HIDEOUTS-- AND I HAVEN'T FOUND SO MUCH AS A FINGERPRINT.

IT'S LIKE HE'S JUST FALLEN OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

YEAH, RIGHT. IF ONLY IT WAS THAT EASY.

HE'S *OUT* THERE. I CAN *FEEL* HIM. MY BEST FRIEND. MY WORST ENEMY.

HARRY OSBORN: THE *GREEN GOBLIN.*

WHY DID I LET HIM *GO* THAT NIGHT? * HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO NAIVE AS TO BELIEVE HE COULD WORK OUT HIS PROBLEMS *ON HIS OWN?*

MAYBE IT WAS JUST TOO *HEARTBREAKING.* HE WAS IN SUCH PAIN, SO CONFUSED--AND FULL OF *HATE.* JUST BEING NEAR ME SEEMED TO DRIVE HIM INTO A FRENZY.

* SPEC. # 183:-- DANNY

MAYBE I THOUGHT IF I LET HIM GO-- IF HE HAD SOME TIME ALONE, AWAY FROM ALL THE REMINDERS OF THE PAST-- HE'D SORT IT OUT AND EVERYTHING'D BE THE WAY IT *USED* TO BE.

WE'D ALL LIVE HAPPILY EVER *AFTER.*

OR MAYBE I WAS JUST *AFRAID.*

HARRY KNOWS WHO I *AM.* KNOWS THAT *PETER PARKER* IS *SPIDER-MAN.* MAYBE I WAS AFRAID THAT, IF I BROUGHT HIM IN--

-- HE'D EXPOSE MY SECRET TO THE *WORLD.*

SO WHAT *WAS* IT? LOVE FOR MY FRIEND-- OR JUST PLAIN *FEAR?*

PROBABLY A LITTLE OF *BOTH.*

BOTTOM LINE IS--I MADE A *MISTAKE.*

HARRY'S MY FRIEND. HE NEEDS HELP. I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM. BRING HIM TO *DR. KAFKA.*

IF ANYONE CAN SORT THROUGH HARRY'S MADNESS, SHE'S THE *ONE.*

BUT LET'S BE *HONEST:* THERE ARE *OTHER* REASONS I HAVE TO BRING HIM IN.

AS LONG AS HE'S *OUT* THERE, HARRY'S A DANGER--TO *AUNT MAY, MARY JANE...* EVERYONE WHO'S *CLOSE* TO ME.

WHO KNOWS HOW FAR HE'LL GO...WHO HE'LL HURT...TO PAY ME BACK FOR EVERYTHING HE *BLAMES* ME FOR?

SO WE'RE BACK TO THE SAME *QUESTION:* AM I DOING THIS OUT OF LOVE--OR FEAR?

AND WE'RE BACK TO THE SAME *ANSWER:*

PROBABLY A LITTLE OF *BOTH.*

NO-- *ADRIAN--*

--PLEASE!

--DON'T HIT ME AGAIN!

GREGORY, GREGORY, GREGORY. DON'T BEG. IT'S SO UNBECOMING IN A MAN OF YOUR STATURE.

RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN. PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY.

WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT, ADRIAN? MONEY?

I'LL GIVE YOU MONEY! ALL THE MONEY YOU COULD EVER--

KRAKK!

IDIOT!

YOU REALLY THINK A MAN'S LIFE CAN BE REDUCED TO A SUM?

YOU REALLY THINK A STACK OF BILLS COULD EVER MAKE UP FOR ALL YOU DID TO ME?

...

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW, GREGORY: *I'M DYING.*

THAT'S RIGHT. *CANCER.* SPREADING FAST. AND THERE'S NOT A THING THE DOCTORS CAN *DO* ABOUT IT.

THE JOKE IS, I CAUSED IT *MYSELF.* GOT IT FROM THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD THAT MY *POWER-PACK* GENERATES. MADE ME FLY. GAVE ME INCREDIBLE STRENGTH.

AND CLAIMED MY LIFE!

I... I'M AN OLD MAN, GREGORY. I'VE LIVED A LONG LIFE-- ONE I'M NOT NECESSARILY *PROUD* OF. AND-- WHEN I DIE-- I WANT TO GO WITH A *CLEAR CONSCIENCE.*

I WANT THE LEDGER OF MY LIFE IN *BALANCE.*

YOU CHEATED ME... *BROKE* ME... ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.* THERE'S BEEN SUCH AWFUL *BITTERNESS* BETWEEN US FOR SO LONG--

--AND WE'VE NEVER MADE OUR *PEACE.*

*SEE *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #241 -- Danny

A MAN SEES WITH DIFFERENT EYES WHEN HE'S FACING DEATH. AND I THINK IT'S TIME, ONCE AND FOR ALL, TO PUT THE PAST TO *REST*--

YES, ADRIAN... *YES!* L-LET'S PUT THE PAST *BEHIND* US-- LET'S--

≥ *uhhhhh*--≤

SNAP

I FEEL SO MUCH *BETTER* NOW.

...I CAN'T *BELIEVE* YOU-- OUT THERE IN THIS ROTTEN WEATHER, DRAGGING THAT HEAVY SHOPPING CART--

AND HOW *ELSE* WAS I SUPPOSED TO GET WHAT I NEEDED FOR DINNER? WHEN YOU AND PETER COME, I WANT EVERYTHING TO BE JUST RIGHT--!

YOU *COULD* HAVE HAD THE GROCERIES DELIVERED, YOU KNOW.

I JUST DON'T *TRUST* THOSE DELIVERY BOYS. THEY MEAN WELL, BUT I ALWAYS END UP WITH CRACKED EGGS OR A LOAF OF BREAD CRUSHED OR--

YOU'RE JUST NOT HAPPY UNLESS YOU DO *EVERYTHING* YOURSELF, ARE YOU?

OH-- I FORGOT THE MILK. YOU LIKE MILK WITH YOUR TEA, DON'T YOU, MARY JANE?

LET THE TEABAG STEEP FOR FIVE MINUTES, THEN POUR IN THE MILK AND--

LET ME DO IT, MAY.

YOU JUST SIT DOWN AND RELAX.

BUT--

YOU'RE ALWAYS RUNNING, TAKING CARE OF EVERYBODY ...JUST LIKE YOUR *NEPHEW.*

BUT...

SIT.

...I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD COME A LITTLE **EARLIER**, MARY JANE. IT'S SO RARE THAT WE HAVE A LITTLE TIME TO OURSELVES--JUST FOR **GIRL** TALK.

WELL, WE'VE GOT **PLENTY** OF TIME TODAY. PETER WON'T BE HERE FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF **HOURS** AT LEAST.

SO LET'S GET DOWN TO IT: HOW ARE YOU AND YOUR NEW **BEAU** GETTING ALONG?

WILLIE? HE'S HARDLY MY "BEAU." HE'S A GOOD FRIEND. HE KEEPS ME **COMPANY.**

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? ANY... SPECIAL **ANNOUNCEMENTS** YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE?

IF YOU MEAN AM I **PREGNANT**-- NO. WE'RE NOT **READY** FOR CHILDREN YET, MAY.

THAT'S WHAT **BEN** AND I ALWAYS SAID. "NOT JUST YET. WE'RE TOO **BUSY** FOR CHILDREN."

BUT TIME HAS A WAY OF FLYING **BY**, MARY JANE. LIFE GOES BY **SO FAST.**

IF WE HADN'T TAKEN PETER IN... I NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE **JOY** OF RAISING A CHILD.

MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH **EMPTIER** WITHOUT HIM. A BOY LIKE THAT... SO FULL OF LOVE--

--WHAT A **BLESSING** HE WAS TO US.

WE'LL GIVE YOU A GRANDDAUGHTER ONE DAY. I **PROMISE.**

AND I'LL HOLD YOU **TO** IT.

NATHAN ALWAYS USED TO SAY THAT IF HE HAD A DOLLAR FOR EVERY YOUTHFUL PROMISE HE MADE AND NEVER KEPT--

-- HE'D'VE BEEN THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

DO WHAT?

YOU LOST BEN... RAISED PETER BY YOURSELF.. THEN, AFTER ALL THAT... LOSING NATHAN THE WAY YOU DID.

YET, YOU NEVER STOPPED. YOU KEPT GOING. YOU'RE SUCH A STRONG WOMAN.

STRONG? ME?

YES, YOU.

YOU AND PETER ARE SO FUNNY. YOU TREAT EACH OTHER LIKE YOU'RE MADE OF GLASS... WORRYING YOURSELVES SICK OVER EVERY LITTLE THING--! POOR SICKLY PETER AND HIS FRAIL OLD AUNTIE. BUT YOU'RE PROBABLY THE TWO STRONGEST PEOPLE I KNOW.

WE DO WHAT WE HAVE TO--

--TO SURVIVE.

NOW SIT DOWN AND EAT YOUR COOKIES, DEAR.

I KNOW HOW YOU ACTRESSES LIKE TO STARVE YOURSELVES -- AND I WILL NOT HAVE MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW WASTING AWAY TO NOTHING.

BELIEVE ME--I'M IN ABSOLUTELY *NO* DANGER OF WASTING AWAY.

THEN HAVE SOME *CAKE.* I BOUGHT THE MOST *WONDERFUL* SEVEN LAYER CAKE--

YOU JUST CHANGED THE *SUBJECT* ON ME, *DIDN'T* YOU?

OH, *MY*...! WILL YOU *LOOK* AT IT OUT THERE?

I HOPE PETER PUTS ON A WARM *SWEATER* AND HIS GOOD *RAINCOAT*--

"--THIS STORM'S GETTING WORSE AND WORSE."

Can't put it off any longer. The old woman and I have unfinished business-- and tonight I settle it... once and for **all.**

Before they lower me into the ground, I'll know that **every** old score's been settled... every old debt **repaid.**

I DON'T WANT TO *DIE!!*

...I...

Well, well, well...

...Perhaps there **IS** a God, after all!

NOT EXACTLY THE GREATEST WEATHER FOR WEB-SWINGING ACROSS THE CITY-- BUT IT BEATS STANDING IN THE RAIN WAITING FOR A *BUS.*

AND AT LEAST I KNOW I'LL GET THERE ON *TIME.* IF I'M SO MUCH AS A MINUTE LATE, AUNT MAY STARTS TO BREAK OUT IN A NERVOUS *RASH.*

NO WONDER *I'M* SUCH A WORRIER: I LEARNED IT FROM AN *EXPERT.* SOMETIMES I THINK I--

UH-OH!

SPIDER-SENSE IS BUZZING LIKE *MAD!*

THERE! SOMEONE *GLIDING* TOWARD ME... *FAST!*

CAN'T SEE CLEARLY THROUGH ALL THIS RAIN-- BUT I'LL BET ANYTHING THAT IT'S *HIM!*

FIGURES. I SPEND *WEEKS* SCOURING THE CITY--AND THEN JUST WHEN MY GUARD'S DOWN, GOOD OL' *HARRY* COMES TO--

-- ME...?!

WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S NOT *HARRY--!* THAT'S--

THE VULTURE!!

AND HE ALMOST *NAILED* ME! BUT-- *HOW?* HE'S NEVER BEEN THIS FAST *BEFORE!*

WELL, I GUESS I CAN FIGURE THAT OUT *LATER!* RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE OL' GEEZER *DOWN*... TURN HIM OVER TO THE *COPS*...

...AND GET TO AUNT MAY'S BY *SEVEN!*

SORRY ADRIAN, OL' PAL--BUT I HAVEN'T REALLY GOT *TIME* FOR LIFE-AND-DEATH BATTLES RIGHT NOW--

TAWIP

-- SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST *SURRENDER* AND SAVE US BOTH A LOT OF--

SPEED, SPIDER-MAN! AND *STRENGTH!* MORE THAN I'VE EVER *HAD!*

I'VE PUSHED THE POWER-LEVELS ON MY *ELECTRO-MAGNETIC HARNESS* FARTHER THAN I'VE *EVER* DARED PUSH THEM!

AFTER ALL-- THERE'S NO POINT IN WORRYING ABOUT SAFETY LIMITS *NOW*, IS THERE?

WHOA!!

I DON'T QUITE *FOLLOW* YOU-- BUT IF TRYING TO SMASH ME INTO THAT BUILDING IS THE BEST THE "NEW, IMPROVED" VULTURE CAN DO--

--I'D GO BACK TO THE *WING-FACTORY* AND ASK FOR A *REFUND!*

GOING DOWN?

NO!

NOT... ME--

--YOU!

DOWN--

--TO YOUR BLOODY DEATH!

ALMOST--

--BUT NOT QUITE!

HE WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT INCREASED *POWER* LEVELS! HE *NEVER* COULD'VE TOSSED ME OFF SO EASILY *BEFORE!*

NOW, WHERE'D HE *GO?*

RAIN'S GETTING SO HEAVY I CAN HARDLY SEE A--

WATCH

YOUR

BACK!

GONE?

I COULD GO AFTER HIM -- BUT, GIVEN THE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND HOW *FAST* HE IS, IT'D BE A WASTE OF TIME.

AND I'VE GOT AUNT MAY TO THINK OF. IF I GET A MOVE ON, I SHOULDN'T BE MORE THAN A COUPLE OF MINUTES *LATE.*

ANYWAY, FROM THE SOUND OF THAT LITTLE *WARNING* THE VULTURE JUST GAVE ME --

--HE'LL FIND *ME* AGAIN, SOON *ENOUGH.*

I'd love to murder you now, Spider-Man. More than Bestman... more than any of them... it's your blood I'm after.

But I think I'll savor it...peck away at you, bit-by-bit-by-bit.

Besides, I've got more pressing business to attend to tonight. You can wait.

The old woman can't.

...YOU *SURE* YOU HAVE TO GO?

AFRAID SO. I'VE GOT A SIX A.M. CALL TOMORROW. THAT'S THE GLAMOROUS LIFE OF A SOAP STAR.

YOUR CHARACTER GETTING AMNESIA AGAIN?

UH-UH. I'M BEING KIDNAPPED BY MY EVIL TWIN.

HOW EXCITING. WAIT'LL I TELL THE GIRLS!

THEY ALL JUST LIGHT UP SO WHEN I TALK ABOUT YOU. HAVE I TOLD YOU HOW PROUD I AM OF YOU, DEAR?

ONLY ABOUT FIFTY TIMES. IN THE PAST HALF HOUR. BUT FEEL FREE TO TELL ME AGAIN-- ANY TIME THE URGE STRIKES.

THANKS FOR DINNER, AUNT MAY. IT WAS GREAT. NEXT WEEK YOU'LL COME OVER TO OUR PLACE AND I'LL COOK FOR YOU.

UH... YOU LIKE MAYO-NAISE SANDWICHES AND BEER, DON'T YOU?

YOU'RE SUCH A KIDDER, PETER. JUST LIKE YOUR UNCLE BEN--

G'NIGHT--

RING ME ONCE WHEN YOU GET IN, SO I KNOW YOU'RE HOME SAFE--

WE WILL--!

KLIK

KREEEEK

GOOD EVENING, MRS. PARKER.

SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

"Funeral Arrangements"

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE!